What is claimed is:

1. A medium reading apparatus provided with a media drive means for driving a medium on which data are recorded; a drive circuit for electrically controlling and driving the media drive means; a read means for reading and supplying data recorded on said medium as electric signals; a signal processing circuit for processing the output signals of the read means and reproducing data; and a control device for controlling said drive circuit and the signal processing circuit, wherein:

said control device has a semiconductor integrated circuit in which a nonvolatile memory capable of electrically writing data unit by unit and electrically erasing data collectively block by block, each block being larger than the unit, and a control section operating in accordance with a program are formed on a single semiconductor chip; said control section manages units in a prescribed area in said nonvolatile memory, writes data into the prescribed area unit by unit, erases data from a block included in the prescribed area when data are written into a plurality of units included in the prescribed area, and writes data in the units in the erased block.

2. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory has an element formed in the same process as that of forming the element constituting said

control section.

3. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control section writes data generated by the execution of a program stored in said nonvolatile memory unit by unit into said prescribed area of the nonvolatile memory.

4. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the functions of unit management, data writing and data erasion by said control section over said nonvolatile memory are realized by a program stored in said nonvolatile memory.

5. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein data written into said nonvolatile memory concern the type of said medium.

6. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein data indicating whether or not the data in each unit are significant are written into each of the units constituting said prescribed area of said nonvolatile memory.

7. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein data for use in checking the reliability of data in each unit are written into each of the units constituting said prescribed area of said nonvolatile memory.

8. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein, when reading data from said medium, check data for the read data are referred to and if the read data are judged to be abnormal, the data written before the writing of the currently read data are read out.

9. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein data to be written into said prescribed area of said nonvolatile memory are information concerning manufacturing fluctuations in said media drive means and read means.

10. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein data to be written into said prescribed area of said nonvolatile memory are information concerning characteristics of the medium obtained by accessing said medium.

11. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said prescribed area has a plurality of blocks, each of which has a plurality of units.

12. The medium reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said data erasion is writing of prescribed data.